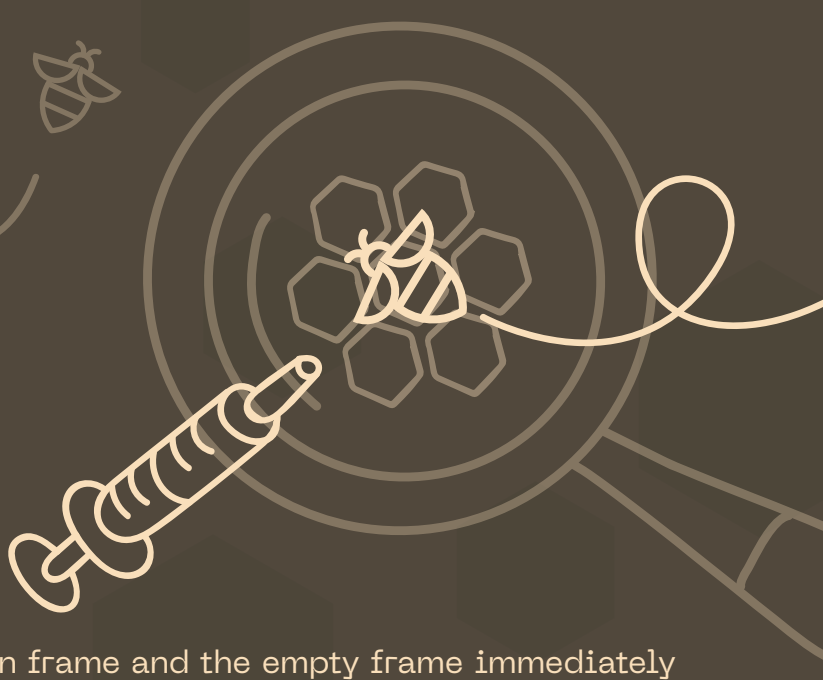
THE BNET
Bee Stronger Together

Kit for Beekeepers

BIOSECURITY MEASURES IN BEEKEEPING | VARROOSIS

Biotechniques

Drone brood removal



Drone brood removal is a biotechnical intervention used in the control of varroa. The drone frames must be removed from the colony within 24 days, so that none of the drones can emerge along with the many new varroa mites. The comb can be cut out of the wooden frame and the empty frame immediately rehung in the hive to repeat the process.

step 1

Use an empty frame.

step 2

Mark each frame on the top bar, so it can be recognized quickly. Hang the empty frame in the broodnest of the colony.

step 3

Wait for the bees to draw out and cap the drone comb. This usually occurs within 2 to 3 weeks.

step 4

Remove the frame. Ideally about 80% of the comb is capped. If done on a 3-week rhythm, no drones and mites can emerge, as drones take 24 days for development.

step 5

The drone comb is now either frozen or directly melted down. This kills the varroa mites. As mites preferentially enter drone brood, this technique can minimize the mite population.

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